

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGUI 00774 012032Z

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7004

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0774

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XA, CT, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: CAR FONMIN WELCOMES SECRETARY'S LUSAKA ADDRESS

REF: BANGUI 0768

1. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF MY MEETING WITH CAR FONMIN ATONIO FRANCK ON APRIL 29 (REFTEL) TO PRESENT HIM A COPY IN FRENCH OF THE SECRETARY'S APRIL 27 SPEECH AND TO DISCUSS SEVERAL ASPECTS OF THE POLICY STATEMENT WHICH ARE OF MOST DIRECT INTEREST TO THE GOCAR.

2. I INVITED THE MINISTER'S ATTENTION TO THE EMPHASIS OF THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS ON MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA AND OTHER PARTS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. FRANCK RESPONDED THAT HE WAS NOT AT ALL SURPRISED AT THIS POSTION. IT WAS ONLY LOGICAL THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD NOT SUPPORT MINORITY GOVERNMENTS SUCH AS THAT OF IAN SMITH. AMERICA'S POSITION WOULD PUT THE US "AT EASE" IN ITS RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN STATES. THE MINISTER SAID THAT THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT WOULD "COUNT ENORNOUSLY" AND THAT "SMITH KNOWS THIS". HE SUGGESTED THAT THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WOULD NOW CHANGE RAPIDLY, MUCH AS PORTUGAL HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED ALMOST OVERNIGHT WITH THE DEMISE OF SALAZAR. SITUATIONS OF MASS INJUSTICE SIMPLY COULD NOT CONTINUE "ETERNALLY" MINISTER FRANCK CONCLUDED.

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PAGE 02 BANGUI 00774 012032Z

3. I ALSO NOTED THE PORTION OF THE LUSAKA SPEECH WHICH ADDRESSED ITSELF TO OUR RELATIONS WITH CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES, IN PARTICULAR THE CONSIDERABLE AUGMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA. IN THIS CONNECTION I DREW THE MINISTER'S ATTENTION TO VARIOUS BILATERAL US/CAR AGREEMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN SIGNED SINCE MY ARRIVAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD PRODUCTION PROJECTS AND NOTED THAT THERE REPRESENTED THE CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. I POINTED TO THE SUBSTANTIAL RURAL HEALTH PROGRAM FOR WHICH PLANNING WAS UNDERWAY AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF OUR INTEREST. FRANCK SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THESE EFFORTS AND THAT THE GOCAR APPRECIATED WHAT WE HAD DONE.

4. IN CONCLUDING OUR EXCHANGE FONMIN FRANCK ASKED THAT I SEND HIM SEVERAL COPIES OF THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S PRESS AND INFORMATION DEPARTMENTS. SEPTTEL WILL PROVIDE A WRAP-UP OF LOCAL MEDIA TREATMENT OF THE SECRETARY'S AFRICAN TRIP AND LUSAKA POLICY STATEMENT.
QUAINTON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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